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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Court of Appeals to Remember Senior Circuit Judge Warren J. Ferguson**

**SANTA ANA** – The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit will convene here in a special session Wednesday, November 12, to remember Senior Circuit Judge Warren J. Ferguson, a respected colleague who served on the federal bench for more than four decades. The special session is scheduled for 3 p.m. in Courtroom 10A of the Ronald Reagan U.S. Courthouse, 411 West Fourth St., Santa Ana.

Judge Ferguson died June 25 in Fullerton, California, after a sudden illness. He was 87. At the time of his death, he was the 11<sup>th</sup> most senior judge on the court in years of service.

The Hon. Alex Kozinski, chief judge of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Hon. Alicemarie H. Stotler, chief judge of the U.S. District Court for Central District of California, will make presiding and opening remarks. Also scheduled to speak are two current judges of the court of appeals, the Hon. Betty Binns Fletcher and the Hon. Harry Pregerson; a former member of the court, the Hon. Shirley Mount Hufstedler; and two of Judge Ferguson's former law clerks, the Hon. Carla M. Woehrle, a U.S. magistrate judge in the Central District, and attorney Peter J. Marx.

Nominated by President Carter, Judge Ferguson was appointed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on November 27, 1979, and served as an active judge until taking senior status on July 31, 1986. He continued to hear cases and serve the court in other capacities for many years.

Before coming onto the court of appeals, Judge Ferguson served as one of the original judges of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California in Los Angeles, which was established by Congress in 1966. Nominated by President Johnson, he received his judicial commission on November 3, 1966, filling one of three new judgeships created for the court.

Prior to federal service, Judge Ferguson served on the Anaheim-Fullerton Municipal Court, 1959 to 1961, and the Superior Court in Santa Ana, 1961 to 1966. During his tenure, he was the presiding judge of the juvenile court and the Appellate Department of the Superior Court.

Born in Eureka, Nevada, Judge Ferguson received his B.A. degree in 1942 from the University of Nevada at Reno, and his LL.B. in 1949 from the University of Southern California School of Law. He served in the Army during World War II, achieving the rank of master sergeant and earning a Bronze Star medal for service in North Africa and Italy.

Judge Ferguson was a respected legal educator who shared his acumen as an associate professor of psychiatry (law) at the USC School of Medicine, an adjunct professor of law at Loyola Law School, and a regular lecturer at the Federal Judicial Center and for the Practicing Law Institute. He also was a member of the faculties of several evidentiary seminars.

The USC Gould School of Law has established an endowment to fund a summer internship honoring Judge Ferguson.

Judge Ferguson is survived by a son, Peter Ferguson, and daughter, Faye Ferguson. He was preceded in death by his wife of many years, Laura Keyes Ferguson, and two other children, Jack Ferguson, a soldier killed in the Vietnam War, and Teresa Ferguson.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals hears appeals of cases decided by federal trial courts in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. The court regularly hears cases in San Francisco, Pasadena, Portland and Seattle, and also travels periodically to other cities within the circuit to hold court.

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